



Union Furniture, 1005 Main Street
Historic View



Union Furniture, 1005 Main Street,
Before



Union Furniture, 1005 Main Street,
September 2008- facade improvements near completion.



City of Fitchburg
Department of Community Development
Sign and Facade Program
 718 Main Street, Room 217
 Fitchburg, MA 01420
 Phone (978) 345-1018
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City of Fitchburg

Department of Community Development

Sign and Facade Improvement Program



Destare Martini Bar, 344 Main Street *Before*



Destare Martini Bar, 344 Main Street *After*

ABOUT THE SIGN AND FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The City of Fitchburg's Community Development Office receives funds from the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program to administer the Sign and Facade Improvement Program for the purposes of revitalizing Fitchburg's business district. The program's focus is:

Making improvements in key business districts and gateways into the City.

Improving the overall aesthetic of a business and area by targeting/prioritizing improvements to businesses with the greatest need for improvement.

Leveraging additional improvements. Improvements to one or several businesses can be an incentive for neighboring businesses to make improvements; creating a corridor of improvements.

Improving the overall economy of the area.

HOW DO I APPLY?

The City receives its funding for the program annually, and accepts applications for facade improvements once a year. Sign and Awning applications may be accepted on a rolling basis if funding permits.

Please contact Liz Murphy of the Department of Community Development at (978)-345-1018 for more information or an application.



Before

Drury Building, 325-327 Main Street



After

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Program Participants will be reimbursed up to 70% of the costs of sign/awning and facade improvements; up to \$20,000 for a facade and \$2,000 for a sign or awning.

Participants will receive professional architectural design services paid for by the program.

Participants will receive assistance from program staff through the design, bidding, contracting and construction process.

Participants will receive assistance with the design review approval process if necessary.

Priority is given to businesses where improvements will have significant impact.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Business must be in the target areas of: Main Street, Water Street, River Street, Westminster Street and Lunenburg Street (to Linwood St.). See map at:

http://www.ci.fitchburg.ma.us/facade_program.htm

Businesses are required to complete and submit an application with a deposit of \$500 for sign improvements and \$1000 for facade improvements. Deposits will be returned if your project is not selected.

Businesses must have an identified source of construction funds. This Program is a reimbursement program.

All projects must comply with the City's Design Guidelines.

Businesses must agree to maintain improvements for a five to ten year period.

Businesses leasing space must have permission from the building owner prior to making improvements.